



### December in the Bluebird Class

Dear Bluebird Families:

Don't forget to put our Classroom Calendar in a special location and refer to it before leaving for school! In December we have our Saturday 'Virtual' Family Holiday Sing and our Class Holiday Party!

#### Social-Emotional Development: Objectives for December & for the School Year:

**Is Aware and Respectful of Personal Space with Occasional Reminders:** Children in this age group begin to understand the need for personal space. In December we will talk about personal space - what it means, why it is important and how to show it! Through pictures, stories and practice we instruct the children that an arm's length away from our friends is the way to show personal space. *(During this time, we will emphasis physical distancing!)*

**I Can Do It Myself!** In December, the children will take care of their personal belongings at arrival time and follow the check-in procedures with little prompting.



#### What Can You Do at Home?

1. Practice personal space at home.
2. Establish routines at home. For instance, when you come home from school; have your child empty their backpack (take home folder on the table, lunch box in the kitchen, coat, and hat on a hook).

#### Physical Development: Gross Motor (Large Muscle) Objectives & Activities for December:

**I Can Balance:** The children will play the game entitled "Animal Friends" and they will do the following activities while playing this game to promote balance. They will...

- ✓ Pretend to be different kinds of animals.
- ✓ Flap their arms like bird wings and "fly" around obstacles.
- ✓ Hop like a frog (using their legs and hands) and say "Ribbit-ribbit-ribbit".
- ✓ Hop on two legs with feet together and pretend to be kangaroos.
- ✓ Bend their knees, walk with their legs far apart, and swing their arms like chimpanzees.
- ✓ Walk on hands and knees and pretend to be kittens saying "meow".

- ✓ Slide on the floor or ground and pretend to be snakes saying "hiss".
- ✓ Invent other animal ideas and noises.

### **Fine Motor (Small Muscle) Objectives & Activities for December:**

- ✓ The children will use pencils and form their letters and numbers to date.
- ✓ The children will learn how to correctly use watercolor paint (this is an excellent fine motor skill)! It teaches children the technique of dipping their paint brush in water, tapping the excess water on the cup, dipping their brush in a desired color, and then applying it to the paper. In addition, when they want a new color, they need to clean their brush and follow the steps again. Once the children have learned this technique, they will make their very own watercolor creations.



#### **What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Do the balancing activities listed above!
2. Have your child practice the letters & numbers as they are introduced and making their name using uppercase for the first letter and lowercase for the other letters. Encourage the 3-point pencil grip, starting their letters at the top, and forming the letters in upper and lower case.

### **LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:**

#### **Language Development Objectives & Activities for December:**

**It's Your Turn - It's My Turn to Talk:** In December we will focus on the very important skill of listening to others when they are speaking and waiting to talk. As we practice this skill, the child speaking will hold a pretend microphone. The rule: the person who has the microphone or object is the only one who should be speaking.

**Sharing Thoughts in Whole Class Discussion and Small Group Discussion:** The teachers will encourage the children to share their thoughts throughout the day. They will emphasize that we all have something important to say and they hope all will feel comfortable to speak.



#### **What Can You Do at Home?**

1. During a family dinner and/or activity have conversations with each other and encourage the importance of listening to each other!

### **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:**

#### **Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for December:**

**Recalls 3 or 4 items Removed from View:** The children will play the "Tray Game"! The teacher will put 3 items on a tray. The children will name the three items and then the teacher will have the children close their eyes and she will remove one of the items. The children will open their eyes and try to guess what is missing. As the game progresses the teacher will put 4 items on the tray.

## ACADEMIC SKILLS IN DECEMBER

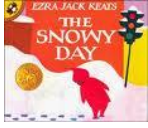
### Reading Readiness:

The children will:

1. **LETTER ART:** The children will make delightful masterpieces for the letters Hh & Kk!
2. **Alphabet Rhymes:** The children will read the Hh & Kk letter rhymes and play "I Spy" the letter of the week in each rhyme.
3. **Mini Books:** The children will make a mini book for the letters Hh & Kk.
4. **Additional Hh & Kk Activities:**
  - The children will do the "Hokey-Pokey" and play with "Hula Hoops" in the Gym Room
  - The children will play the Horse & Hay Game! Pictures of things that begin with Hh and pictures that do not begin with Hh will be attached to wooden blocks (bales of hay). Each child will pick up a bale of hay, say the name on the card. If it begins with an Hh the child will place it by the horse & if it doesn't they will move it away.
  - The children will play the 'Kettle Game'! The children will use a plastic kettle filled with water to pour into the cup labelled with the letter K. They will have to look carefully as not all cups will be marked with the letter K.

### Math Readiness:

1. **Reviewing Numbers 1 to 8 & Introducing Numbers 9 & 10.**
  - #8: The teacher will place a set of number cards (1 to 9) on the table upside down. Each child will get a turn to flip over one card. They will identify the number and then lead the class in counting up to that number beginning with one. The child will also choose an action such as clapping, snapping, or hopping to that number.
  - #9: The teacher will give each child a number line to 9. Each child will have cards with numbers to 9. The teacher will hold up a picture of several objects. The children will count the objects and place the correct number on the line.
2. **Tells What Number (1 to 9) Comes Next in Order by Counting**
3. **Identifies Dots on a Dice Without Counting - up to 6!**



### Picture Book of the Month for the M/W/F & 5 Full Day Classes...

Our picture book of the month is The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats. After listening to the story, the children will make snowy scene collages.



### What Can You Do at Home?

1. Reviewing the letter art that are sent home with your child. Have them try to identify the letter being introduced and think of all the words that start with that letter.
2. Identifying and counting numbers one to ten.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, etc. please put a note in your child's take-home folder and I will give you a call.

